

REMARKS

I. OVERVIEW

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Final Office Action dated September 27, 2006 and references cited therewith. Claim 5 has been amended to be rewritten in independent form. Claim 4 has been amended so that it depends from claim 5. Claims 1-3 and 6-32 have been canceled to expedite prosecution. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 4-5 are pending in the instant application. The present response is an earnest effort to place all claims in proper form for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issuance is therefore respectfully requested.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS MAINTAINED - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being rendered vague and indefinite. The Examiner writes that it is still unclear what is meant by "signature sequences".

While not acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, Applicant has canceled claim 6, rendering the basis for this rejection moot.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Krieg et al. (WO 01/22972) is maintained for reasons of record.

While not acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, Applicant has canceled claims 1-4 and 6, rendering the basis for this rejection moot.

B. The Examiner states the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Krieg et al. (U.S. Patent 6,239,116) is maintained for reasons of record.

While not acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, Applicant has canceled claims 1-4 and 6, rendering the basis for this rejection moot.

C. The Examiner states the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schwartz et al. (WO 98/37919) is maintained for reasons of record.

While not acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, Applicant has canceled claims 1-4 and 6, rendering the basis for this rejection moot.

IV. CLAIM 5

The Examiner states at page 10 of the Office Action that claim 5 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim. The Examiner has indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if presented in independent form.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 5 to be rewritten in independent form. As amended, claim 5 incorporates all the limitations of claim 3 from which it depends. Claim 4 has been amended so that it depends from claim 5 rather than from claim 3. Applicant submits that the claims are in form for allowance.

V. CONCLUSION

In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney so that prosecution can be expedited.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Respectfully submitted,



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